are among the 13 sites recognised by the UNESCO as World Heritage sites;

(b) whether the number of tourists that visit Ellora and Ajanta caves every year is less as compared to Rajasthan, Delhi and Agra due to lack of facilities and proper publicity;

(c) whether Aurangabad does not have a modern airport, nor the necessary infrastructural facilities for tourism at Ajanta and Ellora cave sites;

(d) if so, whether Government of Maharashtra have submitted any plan to the Central Government to preserve the caves and to improve its surroundings;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) what is the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) A Loan Agreement has been signed by the Government of India and the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan on 9th January, 1992 for conservation and development of Ajanata and Ellora. The total cost of the project is 4406 million Japanese Yen, out of which an amount 3.745 million Japanese Yen would be made available for augmentation of infrastructure facilities and preservation and conservation of Ajanata and Ellora. The project includes modernisation of Aurangabad airport. Department of Tourism has brought out a brochure on Ajanta and Ellora which has been widely circulated both in India and abroad. Under the project, the State Government would be strengthening their publicity and marketing support.

Upgrading the Jabalpur Air Strip

1104. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken so far to upgrade the Jabalpur air strip and to provide for landing and take off facilities for Boeing aircraft; and

(b) by what time Jabalpur is likely to be placed on the air map of India again?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (a) and (b) There are plans to extend the runway of Jabalpur (Dumna) airport to 6500 to make it suitable for Boeing-737 operations. Extension of runway and new terminal building and other associated facilities will cost about Rs. 9.00 crores. The work will commence after the Government of Madhya Pradesh hand over 29 acres of land required for the project.

Aircraft with Indian Airlines and Air India

1105. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to roll over aircraft in use with Indian Airlines and Air India after a shorter period of service than earlier contemplated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, whether the same has been approved in respect of any of the wto airlines and what is the precies decision of Government: and

(d) what is the number of aircraft in service that would be required to be rolled out of performance as a result of the new guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Government have approved fleet renewal plan of Air India and Indian Airlines to provide them a policy frame to have a more modern and younger fleet for improving aircraft utilisation, on-time performance and passenger appeal. The practice so far has been that the two national airlines retire aircraft after about 20 years. Approval has now been given for a 10 year roll out plan for Air India; in Indian Airlines, it is about 15 years. The roll out plans are also intended to be staggered with a view to avoiding large scale bunching of aircraft replacement. On current reckoning, the number of aircraft to be replaced until the year 2010-11 is 49 in the case of Air India and 56 in the case of Indian Airlines. The plans are only indicative and their implementation would depend upon the results of detailed techno-economic evaluation of specific replacement proposals.

Commercial pilots from rural areas

1106. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) how many operators have been issued permits to operate Air Taxies at present;

(b) what steps are being taken to trim the operations of scheduled flights of Indian Airlines to keep up punctuality;

(c) whether it is a fact that only a privileged small section is enjoying the available facilities of pilot training; and

(d) whether there is any scheme to select and train qualified boys from rural areas as commercial pilots?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Seven operators have been isued permits for Air Taxi operations.

(b) Steps taken by Indian Airlines to ensure punctuality of its scheduled flights include monitoring of delays and instituting suitable remedial action wherever necessary, provision of adequate infrastructure for handling/maintenance of aircraft, creation of standby capacity and retionalisation of schedule to the extent possible.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Non operation of Indian Airlines flights

1107. DR. BALDEV PRAKASH:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:
SHRI RAM RATAN RAM:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSH:
SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of scheduled Indian Airlines flights that were missed or cancelled during the period from January to June, 1992, together with the reasons;

(b) what is the number of occasion when the staff had struck work during the same period, together with the details of the category of employees involved and man days/hours lost as a result thereof;

(c) what is the number of flight-hours lost during the past six months due to non-availability or shortage of spares, together with the names of the aircrafts; and

(d) what is the amount of loss incurred by the Indian Airlines due to the above factors?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) During January to June, 1992, out of